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FILE ONLY

Former agent blasts

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activities of CIA

VERMILLION, S.D. — Former CIA Agent John Stockwell now says the agency poses the ultimate threat to democracy.

Stockwell lectured on "The Secret Wars of the CIA" at the University of South Dakota on Thursday.

"Our planet is terminally ill," he began. "The disease is the nuclear arms race. It is not likely that people of your generation will die a natural death."

He said the "destabilization" tactics the CIA is using in Third World countries increases global tension, bringing the threat of nuclear war closer.

Stockwell worked with CIA operations in Vietnam and Angola, and also served on the top-secret National Security Council.

He resigned as chief of the CIA's Angola task force in 1977 to write "In Search of Enemies," a book which exposes CIA covert actions in Angola.

For the last seven years Stockwell has been visiting troubled countries, including Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua, reading and lecturing. He is the highest-ranking CIA official to criticize the agency, and has appeared on "60 Minutes" and "NBC Magazine." The CIA has sued him, and has impounded profits from his book totalling \$100,000 and now, he says, anything he writes in the

future must be censored by the CIA before publication.

Stockwell said that in Angola, one-third of his staff was professional propagandists whose job it was to make U.S. involvement look good. "In Angola we led the way in escalation," he said. "The truth had nothing to do with what we told you, it had to sound right to the American people....We killed 10,000 people in Angola."

He called U.S. foreign policy the politics of "paranoia," saying "We are very close to a central American war, in my opinion. All the preparations are complete. We had a rehearsal in Grenada."

He said of President Reagan, "The man, in fact, has a defective mind.

He is likeable, but he is like a nine-year-old playing at being president....There are many things about the arms race he does not understand....He sees himself and all of us going out together in a big Armageddon."

"We can't take care of our poor people or our old people," he said. "Our cities are literally crumbling and yet the budget reported in the New York Times has us cutting over \$40 billion in non-defense items and adding over \$30 billion to defense. Why do we put up with this? The politics of paranoia."

Stockwell spoke of his fear of nuclear war. "We have 52,000 atomic weapons in the world today, while

1,000 would be enough to create atomic winter....Atomic weaponry is not fail-safe. Malfunctions are frequent.

"Clearly, if we want to survive, we have to reach out our hands to all the people in the world and convince our leaders to stop this madness....There is a little bit of hope. Big changes have been accomplished by people before. We have abolished slavery, women have achieved rights, the people did manage to stop the Vietnam war.

"We've got to get to work and take control of our future, if we're going to have a future."

Stockwell's lecture was sponsored by the USD News and Views Committee.